

I Claim:

1. An amphipathic peptide conjugate having detergent properties and having a hydrophobic face and a hydrophilic face, said peptide moiety of the conjugate comprising a first end and a second end, wherein said first end is covalently linked to a first aliphatic hydrocarbon moiety and said second end is covalently linked to a second aliphatic hydrocarbon moiety, said aliphatic moieties being linked such that they associate with the peptide moiety of the conjugate.
2. The peptide conjugate as defined in claim 1, which comprises a lipopeptide detergent.
3. The peptide conjugate as defined in claim 1, wherein said peptide comprises hydrophobic and hydrophilic regions.
4. The peptide conjugate as defined in claim 1, wherein said peptide comprises 15-35 amino acids.
5. The peptide conjugate as defined in claim 4, wherein said peptide comprises about 25 amino acids.
6. The peptide conjugate as defined in claim 5, wherein said peptide has the amino acid sequence, AOAEAAEKAAYAAEAAEKAAKAOA.
7. The peptide conjugate as defined in claim 1, wherein the length of said peptide is approximately equal to the width of a phospholipid bilayer.
8. The peptide conjugate as defined in claim 7, wherein the length of said peptide is in the range of about 3.5 - 4.0 nm.
9. The peptide conjugate as defined in claim 8, wherein the length of said peptide is about 3.7 nm.
10. The peptide conjugate as defined in claim 1, wherein the termini of said peptide are protected.
11. The peptide conjugate as defined in claim 10, wherein the N-terminus of said peptide is acetylated and the C-terminus of said peptide is amidated.
12. The peptide conjugate as defined in claim 1, wherein said aliphatic hydrocarbon moieties comprise from about 8-24 carbon atoms.